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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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(30) Priority: 30.11.2001 US 997335

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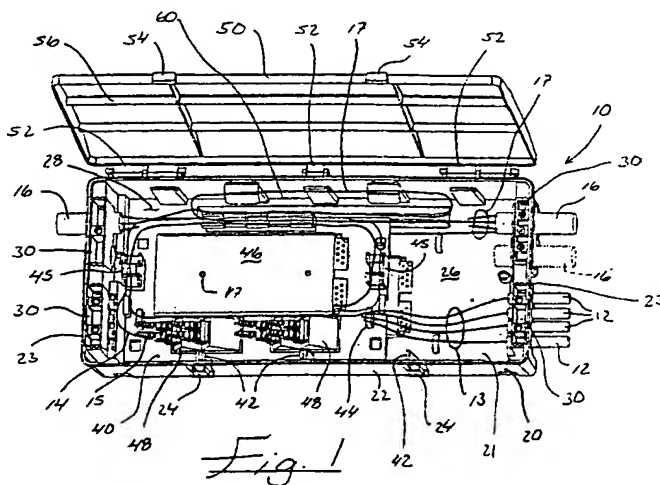
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### (54) Optical fiber distribution terminal for network access point

(57) A distribution terminal (10) is provided for interconnecting one or more fiber optic drop cables (12) with at least one fiber optic distribution cable (16) at a convenient access point in a telecommunications network. The terminal (10) comprises a base (20) and a cover (50) adapted to be opened and closed on the base (20). The base (20) defines an interior cavity (21) having a lower fiber management area (26) for accessing the distribution cable (16) and an upper fiber management area

(28) for accessing the drop cables (12). The upper fiber management area (28) includes a transition panel (40) that is movable relative to the base (20) to provide access to the lower fiber management area (26). Thus, both the lower fiber management area (26) and the upper fiber management area (28) are easily and readily accessible to a field technician initially installing the terminal (10) and subsequently reconfiguring the optical fiber connections within the terminal (10) at the access point.





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 02 4723

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 6 314 230 B1 (PAWLENKO IVAN ET AL) 6 November 2001 (2001-11-06)  * column 2, line 52 - column 4, line 13; figures 1-6 *	1-3,5, 11,12, 17,18	G02B6/44
X	US 6 226 434 B1 (NOZAWA TETSUO ET AL) 1 May 2001 (2001-05-01)  * column 3, line 31 - column 8, line 60; figures 1,2,6,7 *	1-3,5, 11,12, 17,18	
X	US 4 717 231 A (MICHAUX JEAN-PIERRE ET AL) 5 January 1988 (1988-01-05)  * column 5, line 27 - column 8, line 10; figures 2,3 * * column 8, line 31 - column 10, line 25; figures 8,9 *	1-3,5, 11,12, 17,18	
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A			
-/--			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>Berlin</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>3 January 2005</b>	Examiner <b>Jacobs, A</b>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/02 (P04C01)



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 02 02 4723

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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A	US 6 201 920 B1 (ELDER CARRIE LYNN ET AL) 13 March 2001 (2001-03-13)  * abstract; figures 1,2 * * column 2, line 12 - column 4, line 46 *	1-3,5,8, 11,14, 17,18	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Berlin		Date of completion of the search 3 January 2005	Examiner Jacobs, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)



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### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 02 02 4723

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-6, 11, 12, 17, 18

Divided optical fibre distribution terminal, with cable ports and a slack storage area.

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2. claims: 7-10, 13-16

Divided optical fibre distribution terminal, with splice trays in one or both of the divided areas, and with an adapter in either of said areas for connecting fibre pigtails.

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 02 4723

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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03-01-2005

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82